

ABSTRACT

A pressure cleaning vessel 1 is connected to a vacuum chamber P by way of a connecting pipe in the sterilizing and cleaning equipment which utilizes a supercritical fluid. The objects to be treated are impregnated, for a given period, in the supercritical fluid with which the pressure cleaning vessel 1 has been filled. Thereafter, the connection between the pressure vessel 1 and the vacuum chamber P is opened so as to generate sudden bubbling within the vessel 1 as a result of a large pressure difference. Thorough sterilization is achieved at the time when the supercritical fluid having penetrated into bacteria and viruses suddenly explodes and destroys these organisms instantly by its power of vaporization and expansion.